

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, OVIP (COOPER, RICHARD), ETRD, BEXP, NI
SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNDER SECRETARY COOPER TO LAGOS

REF: STATE 103208

1. UNDER SECRETARY EFFECTIVELY USED 36-HOUR LAGOS VISIT TO PRESENT ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS ON CIEC AND EXPLORE WAYS TO IMPROVE U.S.-NIGERIAN BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. DISCUSSIONS COVERED TRADE AND INVESTMENT, INTERNATIONAL FINANCE, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, ENERGY POLICY AND OVERALL DEVELOPMENT AND WERE VALUABLE IN STIMULATING FMG THINKING ON POSSIBLE MEANS TO ACHIEVE CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH U.S. IN ADDITION TO PRINCIPAL MEETING WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA, COOPER CONFERRED WITH PERMSECS OF FINANCE AND TRADE, UNDP CHIEF IN NIGERIA, AND RANKING REPRESENTATIVES FROM PLANNING, MARITIME AND OIL SECTORS. ALL MEETINGS CHARACTERIZED BY CORDIALITY AND SOLIDLY SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE OF VIEW AND INFORMATION.

2. AFTER ARRIVING LAGOS AIRPORT AT 1800 HOURS MAY 12, COOPER ATTENDED WORKING DINNER AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. DINNER PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE WITH H.M.A. ONITIRI, DIRECTOR OF NIGERIAN
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INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH; MULTILATERAL AID WITH MENVILLE, NOLETE, UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE; INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC/POLITICAL TRENDS WITH BOLAJI AKINYEMI, DIRECTOR OF NIGERIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS; ENERGY POLICY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH P.C. EZEIFE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CENTRAL PLAN AND ERNST HOTZ, GENERAL MANAGER, SHELL-BP (NIGERIA) LTD; AND LAW OF THE SEA WITH E.O. BAYAGBONA, DIRECTOR

OF NIGERIAN INSTITUTE FOR OCEAN AND MARINE RESEARCH.

3. ON MORNING MAY 13, COOPER HAD HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH RELAZED AND RECEPTIVE MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA. REVIEWING U.S. POSITION ON CIEC, COOPER CITED THE THREE MAIN AREAS OF U.S. ATTENTION AT FORTHCOMING PARIS MEETING AS: (A) PARALLEL NEGOTIATION OF COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AND COMMON FUND (B) WAYS TO IMPROVE STABILITY FOR EXCHANGE EARNINGS OF LDC'S, (C) FORMULATION OF NEW WAYS TO BOLSTER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT. IN REPLY TO GARBA'S STATED PREFERENCE FOR INDEXING AND GENERALIZED TREATMENT OF COMMODITIES COOPER EXPLAINED HOW SUCH APPROACHES WERE UNREALISTIC WHILE AT THE SAME TIME POINTING OUT THAT GENERAL WORLD PRICE LEVEL MOVE-MENTS WOULD BE ONE FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE TARGET PRICE OF COMMODITIES. BOTH MEN WERE OF OPINION THAT MAY-JUNE CIEC SESSION WOULD BE THE ORGANIZATION'S LAST AND THAT VIRTUALLY ALL ISSUES SHOULD THEN BE RETURNED TO OTHER ESTABLISHED FORA FOR ONGOING TREATMENT. POINTING OUT THAT ENERGY WAS ONE ISSUED THAT PROBABLY COULD NOT BE THUS PLACED, COOPER SAID THAT U.S. WAS NOT OPPOSED TO THE DISCUSSION OF ENERGY MATTERS WITHIN UNCTAD.

4. AMBASSADOR RAISED QUESTION ON HOW BEST WE COULD CONTINUE MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE CLOSER NIGERIAN-AMERICAN COLLABORATION IN APPROACHING NIGERIA'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. HE CITED CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U.S. GEOLOGICAL SERVICE, AND OLC/ACE ACTIVITIES AS EXAMPLES OF USEFUL NEW VENTURES. GARBA SAID HE WOULD TRY TO FIX A CENTRAL COORDINATION POINT IN HIS MINISTRY WITH WHICH WE COULD PROCEED WITH DISCUSSIONS ON THESE MATTERS. IN PARTICULAR

HE WOULD TRY TO PROVIDE US A FIX ON THE STATUS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S MANPOWER PLANNING AND HOW THE U.S. COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING AT MINISTRY OF FINANCE, PERMSEC MUSA BELLOW EMPHASIZED HIS DESIRE FOR HIGHER MORAL COMMITMENTS WITHIN NIGERIA'S GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND FOR MORE U.S. INVESTMENT TO SPUR ECONOMY. HE POINTED TO VALUE OF "AGGRESSIVE APPROACH" OF AMERICAN BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AS STIMULANT. HE FURTHER STATED THAT NIGERIA COULD NOT AFFORD TO DEplete ITS EXTERNAL RESERVES AND HAD TO DEVELOP ALONG MORE DIVERSIFIED LINES. EXHIBITING LOW-KEY IRRITATION WITH THE MILITARY REGIME'S IMPATIENCE WITH CAREER CIVIL SERVICE, HE CALLED FOR MORE DEDICATION IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TOWARD BUILDING UP THE COUNTRY. COOPER DISCUSSED HOW OPIC AND EXIM PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND HOW VARIOUS USG AGENCIES FURNISH TECHNICAL AID ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS. THE MEETING CLOSED WITH MUTAL AGREEMENT THAT FMG-EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES MEET TO DETERMINE CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD ESTABLISHING BETTER ECONOMIC COOPERATION MECHANISMS.

6. AT MINISTRY OF TRADE MEETING, PERMSEC ABUBAKAR ALHAJI VOICED HIS APPRECIATION THAT A "TOP U.S. DECISION-MAKER" HAD COME OUT TO SEE NIGERIA'S PROBLEMS AT FIRST HAND. IN REPLY TO ALHAJI'S REQUEST, COOPER GAVE OVERVIEW UPDATING ON U.S. CIEC POSITION. SWITCHING TO THEME OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PERMSEC EXPRESSED WORRY OVER "SLOWING DOWN" OF U.S. INVESTMENT IN NIGERIA AND OPINED THAT AFRICA WAS RECEIVING ONLY "TERTIARY INTEREST" IN U.S. EYES. COOPER POINTED OUT THAT INVESTMENT DIP HAD BEEN GLOBAL DUE TO RECESSION, BUT THAT U.S. INVESTMENT WAS NOW GENERALLY RISING AGAIN AROUND THE WORLD. AMBASSADOR AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR NOTED THAT NIGERIA, RATHER THAN RECEIVING SCANTY ATTENTION FROM AMERICANS, WAS OBJECT OF ALREADY STRONG AND GROWING U.S. INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT. CITING SEVERAL LARGE ONGOING PROJECTS, EMOFFS GAVE LIST OF RESIDENT U.S. FIRMS TO ALHAJI AND ADVISED THAT MORE INVESTMENT COULD BE ATTRACTED TO NIGERIA IF POTENTIAL INVESTORS HAD ASSURANCE THAT INVESTMENT REGULATIONS WOULD STAY FIRM, AND IF DPLETHORA OF RULES AND RED TAPE COULD BE SIMPLIFIED AND/OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ADMINISTERED BY ONE FMG OFFICE. MOREOVER, NIGERIA WOULD HAVE TO TAKE MUCH MORE OF AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PROMOTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT. THIS TASK HAD BEEN MAINLY BORNE BY THE USG, BUT THE RESPONSIBILITY ACTUALLY LAY WITH THE NIGERIANS THEMSELVES. ALHAJI AGREED AND ASKED FOR FURTHER EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS IN THIS REGARD.

7. NIGERIAN TELEVISION (NTV) INTERVIEWED UNDER SECRETARY, MAKING EFFECTIVE 10-MINUTE TAPE SHOWN EVENING MAY 13 BY TEN NIGERIAN STATIONS. COOPER DEPARTED LAGOS MIDNIGHT MAY 13 FOR WASHINGTON. EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: ECON, OVIP, ETRD, BEXP, NI, CIEC, (COOPER, RICHARD)
To: STATE
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